

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/J:R N KILPATRICK:EH
APPROVED BY EA:W H GLEYSTEN
EA/K:R RICH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 006721

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: POLITICAL COUNSELOR ARIMA CALLS ON GLEYSTEN

1. JAPANESE EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR ARIMA CALLED ON ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY GLEYSTEN ON JAN 6 TO ASK USG VIEWS ON KOREA IN THE COMING YEAR.
2. WITH REGARD TO KOREA, GLEYSTEN NOTED THAT WE ARE INTERESTED IN AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION THERE WHILE AT THE SAME TIME WE MUST DEAL WITH THE TONGSUN PARK AFFAIR. HE SAID THAT IN THE NEAR FUTURE THE ADMINISTRATION WILL MAKE CLEAR AT A SENIOR LEVEL THAT WE CONSIDER THE TOTALITY OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ROK TO BE IMPORTANT.
3. RE HUMAN RIGHTS, GLEYSTEN POINTED OUT THAT THE USG HAS BEEN VERY CAREFUL IN HANDLING THE ROK, BUT HAS CONTINUED TO

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APPLY FIRM, QUIET, DIPLOMATIC PRESSURES AT HIGH LEVELS IN THE ROKG. WE HAVE URGED THEM TO BE HELPFUL, AND THEY HAVE BEEN. IN THIS REGARD, GLEYSTEN NOTED THAT THE RELEASE OF THE REMAINING MYONGDONG PRISONERS HAS BEEN ONE OF OUR IMPORTANT OBJECTIVES. UPON THE RELEASE OF FIVE OF THEM ON DECEMBER 31, ACTING SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER MADE A STATEMENT

WELCOMING THE RELEASE AS THE LATEST IN A RECENT SERIES OF POSITIVE ACTIONS BY THE ROKG. NEVERTHELESS, GLEYSTEN NOTED THERE ARE THOSE IN THE US WHO DO NOT RECOGNIZE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE RELEASES. WE HOPE FOR FURTHER PROGRESS.

4. TURNING TO THE TONGSUN PARK AFFAIR, GLEYSTEN SAID THAT WE NOW HAVE AGREEMENTS WITH THE ROKG AND PARK WHICH ARE SATISFACTORY FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF OUR JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, ALTHOUGH SOME IN CONGRESS SEE THEM AS SERVING THE INTERESTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH BUT NOT OF CONGRESS. THESE AGREEMENTS PROVIDE FOR TWO-STAGE INVESTIGATION: (1) QUESTIONING OF PARK IN KOREA UNDER CONDITIONS THAT WILL "ENCOURAGE" HIM TO BE TRUTHFUL, AND (2) PARK'S RETURN TO THE US TO TESTIFY IN COURT PROCEEDINGS. GLEYSTEN NOTED PROBABILITY THAT CONGRESS WILL SUBPOENA PARK AND THAT THERE IS NOTHING THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH CAN DO TO PREVENT THIS. HOWEVER, THE ADMINISTRATION WILL URGE CONGRESS TO PURSUE A PRACTICAL SOLUTION RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION WHILE ALSO CONTINUING TO STRESS TO THE KOREANS THAT THEY SHOULD DEAL PRACTICALLY WITH CONGRESS IN WORKING OUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR PARK TO TESTIFY.

5. GLEYSTEN POINTED OUT THAT ONE OF THE DANGERS IN THE PARK AFFAIR IS THAT IT CAN CREATE A NEGATIVE ATMOSPHERE IN CONGRESS WHICH COULD JEOPARDIZE THE ARMS TRANSFER LEGISLATION

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AND OTHER DEFENSE ASSISTANCE ASSOCIATED WITH OUR CONTEMPLATED TROOP WITHDRAWALS FROM THE ROK. GLEYSTEN SAID THAT WE WILL BE WORKING TO CREATE A FAVORABLE ATTITUDE IN CONGRESS TOWARD THE ARMS TRANSFER PROGRAM BUT AT THIS TIME WE CANNOT GUARANTEE SUCCESS. VANCE

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